
Annex to the proposal of amendment to CMM 16-2019: SPRFMO Observer Programme

From the Conservation and Management Measure for the SPRFMO Observer Programme (CMM 16-2019), established by the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), it is inferred that it was designed for industrial vessels, without having a distinction for another type of fleet; that is, for those vessels less than 15 meters in length that, as in the case of Peru, carry out activities in a circumstantial manner outside its jurisdictional waters and even prior to the creation of the SPRFMO.

In that sense, they would be affected by not being able to enter to the high seas, if they do not count with an observer on board, a requirement established in CMM 16-2019, and that due to their own characteristics, it is difficult to comply.

Therefore, and according to the provisions of article 19, numeral 2, literal “b” of the “Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean” (the “Convention”), which notes the following: [..]

2 In giving effect to the duty to cooperate in the establishment of conservation and management measures for fishery resources covered by this Convention, the members of the Commission shall take into account the special requirements of developing State Contracting Parties in the region, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, and territories and possessions in the region, in particular:

(b) the need to avoid adverse impacts on, and ensure access to fisheries by, subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers and women fish workers, as well as indigenous people in such developing States Parties, and territories and possessions (emphasis added) [..]

Perú proposes to exempt fishing vessels of no more than 15 meters in length from compliance with the Observer Program established in CMM 16-2019, as specified in the proposal form; with the aim of supporting artisanal fishing in developing States such as Peru.

Artisanal fishing is an activity that serves as an economic and social engine, provides food and nutritional security for the population, generates self-employment and other multiplier effects for local economies, and at the same time supports the livelihoods of riverside communities. In addition, that said activity is generally carried out in coastal areas and incidentally outside jurisdictional waters¹, they employ vessels no larger than 15 meters in length, mostly built from wood, with a hold capacity of 2 to 15 m³.

In the case of Peru, they operate mainly with a hand line with manual hooks (squid jiggers), in the North and South, with higher landings registered in the ports of Paita in the north and Matarani in the South, and eventually in Pucusana, places that have been become economically dependent on the jumbo flying squid, dedicating 70% to 90% of their local fleet to this fishery². Most of the fishermen come from families with a long tradition in artisanal fishing activities.³

In line with the earlier paragraph, taking into account the socioeconomical level of artisanal fishermen, it should be noted that most of them are from complete secondary school, and on average their incomes are between S/ 501 and S/ 1,000 per month (equivalent to approximately \$ 140 - \$ 278). They are characterized by having a high family burden, so the main motivations for working in the artisanal fishing activity are economic necessity and familiar tradition.

In this context, Peru considers that the same requirements that can be met in the industrial fishing activities of the States, or more developed fishing entities, should not be required for artisanal fishing activities (with no more than 15 meters in length) within Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

¹ The operator makes the decision to leave jurisdictional waters in a circumstantial manner, as the crew does not find the availability of the resource within them during the fishing operation.

² Instituto del Mar del Perú, Monitoring System for the Jumbo flying squid *Dosidicus gigas* fishery in Peru, October 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.sprfmo.int/assets/2019-SC7/Meeting-Docs/SC7-SQ09-Monitoring-system-for-the-Jumbo-flying-squid-fishery-in-Peru.pdf>

³ Instituto del Mar del Perú, Informe ISSN 0378-7702, Volume 45, Number 3: July – September 2018, Callao- Perú.

The foregoing argument is based on the fact that the main reason for the formation of the RFMOs is the regulation of activities in which highly autonomous vessels are employed, whose operations are mainly carried out continuously on the high seas, seeking to avoid risks associated with the sustainability of the resources contained in said area.

Otherwise, artisanal vessels (vessels no greater than 15 meters in length), do not regularly plan to leave the jurisdictional waters, but they do so according to the behavior of the resource that broadens its distribution presented at the time; they also present the information required by the SPRFMO in its CMM 02-2020: Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data.

The Observer Programme contemplated in CMM 16-2020 is aimed at industrial vessels engaged in large-scale fishing, with standards that, due to their own characteristics associated with their small-scale work, are difficult to be met by vessels dedicated to artisanal fishing.

The CMM 16-2020 does not take into account that the vessels dedicated to artisanal fishing have particular characteristics, among others, that they are only between 12 and 15 meters in length, which limits their capacities to have an observer as planned for the implementation of the Observer Programme.

Peru considers that this proposal to amend CMM 16-2019 is supported, in addition to what is contemplated in Article 19 (2) (b) of the Convention, in the Sustainable Development Goals 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources" (SDG 14), since it goes beyond the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and places its attention and importance on food security, on people and artisanal fishing communities that depend on hydrobiological resources and in the very future on States especially developing States that depend on hydrobiological resources. Even more so when it is recognized as target 14.7, which calls for "By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism" and, as target 14.b, "Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets".

It should be remembered that SDG 14 is one of the great priorities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), declared by the United Nations as it seeks to strengthen the development and implementation of science-based solutions for the management of fisheries, especially artisanal fisheries⁴.

Artisanal fishing has an invaluable contribution to employment and provides a livelihood for vulnerable families in social and economic terms, in addition to its crucial contribution to food security, especially in developing countries. The value chain derived from artisanal fishing encompasses generally undervalued women, whose livelihoods depend on this type of fishing.

Likewise, the main purpose of the vessels dedicated to artisanal fishing is to serve direct human consumption, that is, it involves subsistence fishing by men and women who work on a small scale, whose work does not affect the sustainability of the resources in the Convention Area.

The vessels dedicated to artisanal fishing do not represent any risk for the sustainability of the resources, since they are exclusively oriented to subsistence fishing and direct human consumption. These vessels present characteristics that make it impossible for them to have the observers provided for in CMM 16-2019, whose standards are exclusively applicable to vessels engaged in large-scale fishing.

⁴ 2022 The international year of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture. Scoping paper on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

On the other hand, it should be noted that the United Nations General Assembly declared 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAF 2022), considered as an important recognition of the millions of small fishermen, aqua culturists and workers from fish, which provide healthy and nutritious food to billions of people and contribute to achieving the goal of “Zero Hunger” set by the United Nations Development Programme. In this context, Peru was elected President of the Committee for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022, in which the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) also participates, with the commitment to continue promoting policies and actions for the sustainable development of artisanal fishing and aquaculture.

This event is also considered as an opportunity to enrich dialogue, increase the participation of small fishermen and aqua culturist and facilitate the establishment of alliances for the sustainable use of hydrobiological resources and their favourable impact on the economic, environmental and social environment. In this sense, the commitment assumed by Peru is relevant, since it will seek to work on policies that contribute to the development of the artisanal fishery.

Finally, the proposal is based on articles 6.18, 7.2.2, literal “c” and 12.12 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries or the objectives of the International Action Plan to prevent, discourage and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), among others.